

## **ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE NEEDS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES/ADA GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE**

The Committee on the Needs of Persons with Disabilities was founded in 1976 and became an official town committee in 1982. The Committee has been instrumental in improving conditions related to accessibility and inclusion for all residents of Mansfield. This Committee also serves as the ADA Grievance Committee which hears and investigates grievances and other concerns filed against the town under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

### **Accomplishments for FY 2011-2012**

- Actively served as the ADA Grievance Committee for Town of Mansfield, hearing a complaint brought regarding accessibility to Parks & Recreation programs.
- Hosted a community presentation by the Family Empowerment Network.
- Worked with other advisory committees to advocate for improved public transportation options for residents with disabilities.

### **Plans for FY 2012-2013**

- Continue to provide advocacy and oversight regarding the needs of residents with disabilities, focusing on access to buildings and services, transportation and overall quality of life.
- Continue to advocate for increased accessibility to the post office buildings.
- Continue to advocate for the development of the Storrs Downtown area as a fully accessible area.
- Survey parents of adult children with disabilities to determine service needs.
- Provide support for accessibility for all children to the new Mansfield Community Playground.
- Actively seek out opportunities to partner with other towns and community organizations to serve as a champion for the needs and rights of residents with disabilities.
- Continue to pursue opportunities to improve the visibility of the work of this committee.